

Just getting started

Northwest advances to first Elite Eight since 2004

ISAIAH SWANN

Sports Editor | @iswanny3503

As the MVP chants rained down at sold-out Bearcat Arena, Northwest knew an Elite Eight berth would not be the only hardware brought home.



Northwest pieced together one of its grittiest performances of the season in a 55-52 victory over Southwest Minnesota State, behind the tournament's Most Valuable Player Justin Pitts, Tuesday evening.

"Offensively, I thought he was excellent," coach Ben McCollum said. "He's allowed to be Justin and he knows he can't do that without his other guys. He can shoot, drive pass: he does it all."

Pitts finished with a game-high 25 points while accumulating 74 total points across the Central Region Tournament.

After four-straight Division II Sweet 16 appearances, Northwest (32-1) broke a three-year shackle that began in 2014. Mustang (28-6) coach Brad Bigler had high praise for the Bearcats after they found their winning groove.

"It's one thing to get here one time, but it's another to get back here four times in a row," Bigler said. "There's something to be said about that."

The first half was a nightmare to forget for the Bearcats. Northwest entered intermission shooting 34 percent from the field, as well as a head-scratching 1-of-9 from downtown.

"This one was just a grind," McCollum said. "It was a hard-fought game."

Midway through the second half, Northwest cranked up the heat.

Up four with 12 minutes to go, Pitts found junior Chris-Ebou Ndow cutting to the basket on the right base-

line. Ndow had just enough space to finish for the easy lay in.

With a 37-31 advantage, everyone in Bearcat Arena knew who would get the ball next.

Northwest's all-time leading scorer stood at the top of the key with one mission in mind: score.

Pitts dribbled left then right and effortlessly flicked the ball from the right elbow and in.

At this point, Northwest had built its largest lead of the game (nine) and the electric atmosphere of Bearcat Arena thundered once more.

"I can't even call a play, it's so loud," McCollum said. "That was awesome and we really appreciate the support and love our fans here."

Southwest Minnesota State had closed the gap to just two points, and with 20 seconds remaining, Pitts answered the call once again.

The junior dribbled full speed to the left baseline and as Pitts faded left, the right-handed floater connected.

"We made enough plays and enough key finishes," McCollum said. "We have a special group and I'm glad they are rewarded with a regional championship."

For the first time in four games, the Bearcats' free throw game showed life. Northwest closed the game with 3-of-4 shooting from the charity strike to ice the game.

Though the Bearcats will celebrate tonight, their list of goals made at the beginning of the season is yet to be completed.

Northwest has a date with destiny and will begin its final championship run in Sioux Falls, South Dakota March 22-25.

"We do have bigger goals," McCollum said. "This is essentially a new tournament and we will approach it like that."



NEXT GAME

Northwest vs. St. Thomas Aquinas
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
March 22 @ 6 p.m.

BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior D'Vante Mosby raises the Central Region Tournament trophy Tuesday evening at Bearcat Arena. The 55-52 win over Southwest Minnesota State earns Northwest its 3rd Elite 8 appearance in program history.

Missouri Academy falls to budget cuts

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS

Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

As a result of insufficient funding and future sustainability issues, the Missouri Academy will shut down after the 2017-2018 academic year.

An official notice was sent out March 9 by University President John Jasinski, where he explained the situation in detail. This notice also brought to light Northwest's goal of strengthening its approach to STEM related programs at the University.

"This decision was not easily made," Jasinski said in his official message. "The closure of the Missouri Academy is not due to any single reason and especially not due to the quality of the faculty, staff and students associated with it. Rather, the closure is the result of a number of factors and interaction of factors that make the Missouri Academy no longer financially viable for a regional, comprehensive teaching institution such as Northwest."

There are 106 students enrolled in the Missouri Academy. Of those 106, 58 will graduate from the Academy this coming spring. The remaining 48 students will graduate in the spring of 2018. The Missouri Academy is no longer accepting new students.

A new 'teach-out' plan has been rolled out to save Northwest approximately \$468,000 for FY18 in regard to Missouri Academy expenses.

The Academy has been open since 2000. Since then, Jasinski said

it has been subject to an evolving education landscape.

"A proliferation of schooling alternatives for high-performing students have become popular in recent years," Jasinski said. "Coupled with Northwest's limited capacity to sustain scholarship support and financial assistance for Missouri Academy students, these factors also have contributed to declining enrollments."

In a meeting with Student Senate March 9, Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker and Vice President of Finance Stacy Carrick discussed specifics of the financial gap Northwest is facing for FY17.

Baker said an inclusion of course-specific fees are in progress for students taking degrees that coincide with on-campus resources. These fees will make up \$150,000 of support revenue expected for FY17.

"Very few students are going to have all the fees go up equivalently," Baker said. "Some students could have their tuition go up \$400. Some students could see increases of \$1,200 or \$1,300."

A 2.8 percent increase in tuition is also underway for FY17. This percentage equals out to roughly \$800,000 in additional funds. Northwest is facing a gap of \$5,750,000, and the Northwest Leadership team is looking for ways to fill it.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



ANNASTASIA TUTTLE | NW MISSOURIAN

People from all over Missouri look to clean up after tornadoes swept the state March 6.

Students impacted by tornado

KATIE STEVENSON

Chief Reporter | @KatieSue_62442

Hundreds of people are still reeling after a tornado tore through an eastern Jackson County community.

The tornado, rated an EF3 by the National Weather Service, touched down March 7 just south of Grain Valley before traveling east through Oak Grove.

According to the Kansas City Star, the tornado damaged 483 houses and 12 people were injured, but none of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

Samantha Heflin, a sophomore from Blue Springs, Missouri, lives only 10 minutes from Oak Grove. Heflin said the community has rallied together to overcome the tragedy.

"The town opened their Civics Center for people that needed somewhere to go, and the Red Cross also

had shelters available in Kansas City," Heflin said. "The utility crews also worked hard to restore power to the town. Overall, I think the community has come together to deal with the situation together."

Oak Grove and surrounding communities came together to gather donations and help those who were affected by the tornado.

According to Fox 4 Kansas City, the local Sonic Drive-In donated 50 percent of its sales to the Community Service League and matched its first \$2,500 in tips and donations from customers.

Northwest community members also gathered donations of clothing and bottled water for Oak Grove. The donations were raised by members of Sigma Kappa and Bearcat Steppers.

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Meet the candidates

Four residents vie for two seats on Maryville City Council

ANNA HASTERT
News Editor | @TheMissourian

Four Maryville residents have filed for a seat on a local board of government.

Michael Baumli, Benjamin Lipiec, Rachael Martin and Kevin C. Hawkins Jr. submitted applications to fill two open seats on the Maryville City Council. The open seats are a result of the

end of the first three-year term of council members Tim Shipley and Rachael Martin. The council members’ terms conclude in April. Hawkins was unavailable for comment.

In other filings, three Maryville residents have refiled for a seat on a local school board.

Incumbents Roger Baker, Jason Haer and Sean Wiedmaier submitted applications for the Maryville R-II School Dis-

trict Board of Education. Baker, with MTE Office Center, seeks to embrace his fifth three-year term on the board, while Haer, with SSM Health St. Francis Hospital, and Wiedmaier, with Nucor-LMP, seek to embrace their fourth three-year term on the board.

Maryville residents can vote for Maryville City Council and Maryville R-II Board of Education candidates during the April 4 election.



Rachael Martin
Bank Midwest
Qualifications: “My first term has really given me the knowledge base and experience to make a positive impact,” Martin said. “Reaching out to my constituents and considering different points of view helped me bring a balanced opinion on the issues to the Council. My involvement in our community helps me understand the different facets of issues we face as a city.”

Previous Government Experience: “April will mark the end of my first three-year term on the Maryville City Council,” Martin said. “I also serve on the Maryville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Maryville Downtown Improvement Organization Board of Directors and several other local committees. I have also served on the Regional Council of Governments Task Force for a couple years during my term for the Maryville City Council. I also serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.”

What She Hopes to Accomplish if Elected: “The comprehensive plans adopted for the City of Maryville and Mozingo are crucial guiding tools for Council goals,” Martin said. “I am hopeful for the opportunity to continue contributing to the vision prior councils have worked so hard to build for our community. City staff has guided the Council by referring to these documents, and keeping us on track, one goal at a time.”



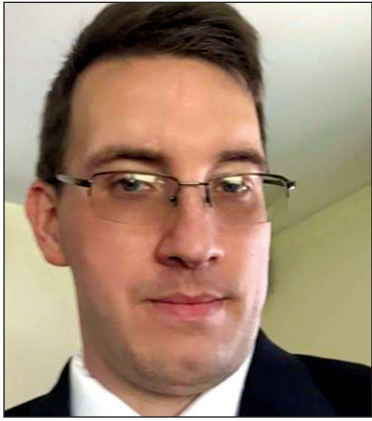
Benjamin Lipiec
Nucor-LMP
Qualifications: “I have a financial computing degree from Northwest Missouri State University,” Lipiec said. “It has allowed me to be able to think critically and has given me the experience to dig deep into topics and to form well-rounded opinions.”

“My faith in Jesus has given perspective on what is important. Also, my family, my wife Mandy and our four beautiful daughters allow me to empathize with other families in the community in regard to having the desire to provide a safe and happy life in our city.”

Previous Government Experience: “While I do not have any previous experience in local government, I am and have been on various non-profit organization boards,” Lipiec said.

What he Hopes to Accomplish if Elected: “It is imperative to keep the city growing its economy,” Lipiec said. “To do so, we need to continue to update and streamline our infrastructure and encourage new businesses to move in and grow our industrial area.”

“Also, Northwest allows our children to have a local option for an excellent education, and it is my belief that we need to continue to support the University.”



Michael Baumli
Kawasaki Motors
Qualifications: “I have been working in the information technology field for a number of years, and have had to work with a broad variety of personalities across various departments,” Baumli said. “My role is to spend much of my time looking forward to what’s in the future and figuring out how it fits into my workplace. I try to keep abreast as to what’s going on, both in technology and politics, as they both carry great weight in my occupation. I think that level of awareness would be a great asset to the Maryville City Council.”

Previous Government Experience: “I do not have political experience,” Baumli said. “I felt City Council is a great starting point.”

What he Hopes to Accomplish if Elected: “My goals are to work with the rest of the City Council to cut costs where possible, and make sure the concerns of the citizens are met,” Baumli said. “Meeting the goal of \$500,000 in road improvements every year I serve will be a priority. Seeing more involvement from the community and seeing more fresh faces at the Council meetings would be a welcoming change. One last goal is for the community and I is to work together to audit existing ordinances and see if there are some that are no longer relevant.”

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Voters to decide fate of public library

ANNA HASTERT
News Editor | @AnnaHasDirt

A local public entity struggles to stay afloat due to budget deficits.

The Maryville Public Library Board heads to the polls April 4 to ask Maryville voters to approve of a property tax levy increase.

The library receives 85 percent of its funding from property tax revenue, and its staff has not asked the Maryville community for a tax levy increase in 55 years.

Maryville Public Library Director Stephanie Patterson said the proposal would increase Maryville residents' annual property tax bill by 1.5 percent.

"We're asking for an 11.94 cent per \$100 assessed valuation increase for Maryville residents' property tax levy," Patterson said. "Since homes are assessed at 19 percent, a house with a market value of \$100,000 would be assessed at 19,000, and this increase would cost that homeowner \$22.80 a year or \$1.90 a month."

The Maryville Public Library has not collected a levy increase since 1962. Since then, the library board has attempted to go county-wide, in efforts to serve Maryville as well as other cities in Nodaway County.

The levy increase differs from the county-wide proposal, and would allow the library staff to fo-

cus on the services it offers, as well as maintaining the building.

Patterson said the library board will have to make cuts regarding hours and programming, specifically for young adults and children, if voters do not approve of the levy increase. Library Board President Jody Strauch said the levy increase would help library staff, at least, maintain some of the programs offered.

"Two of our biggest user groups are preschoolers and their parents and older adults, retirees and senior citizens," Strauch said. "The library's focus is always lifelong learning, so the money that comes in helps us create and maintain programs that serve all different age groups in Maryville."

Patterson also said the library board will have to look into other options, such as other buildings to relocate too, if voters do not approve of the levy increase.

"I don't know at what point we'll get pretty serious about moving, because moving a library isn't a small thing," Patterson said. "We wouldn't be in a rush; we would be looking at our options to try and determine where to go from there. If we can't receive the budget we need to take care of the building, then we will need to find a building that matches our budget. It's probably going to be less square footage, which means a smaller (book) col-

lection and less meeting room space and program space."

Patterson said when public funding wanes, the library's ability to raise funds through fundraisers and grants also wanes.

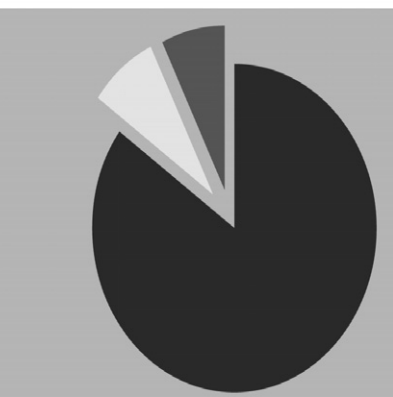
"I've gone from writing three to four grants a year to writing one grant a year because we neither have the money for the match required by the grant nor the staffing or resources to maintain the technology, hardware or program the grant gets started," Patterson said. "Grants are to start new things and to upgrade, and you're expected to maintain it after that. We can't maintain those things right now with our current budget."

If approved, the levy increase would provide the library an additional \$115,000 annually. Patterson said the increase would allow the library to create a capital improvement and building maintenance fund and hire a full-time children's programming coordinator.



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NWMISSOURIANEWS.COM

Potential impacts of library funding proposal



- 85% Local property tax
- 8% Friends & Foundations
- 7% Others (State Aid, Fees, Fines, etc.)

A house with a market value of \$100,000 will have an increase of **\$22.80** in annual property tax bill. That is only an extra **\$1.90** a month

If approved = only **2%** of your total tax bill

SOURCE | STEPHANIE PATTERSON ALEXANDRA MELO-MORA | NW MISSOURIAN

UPD pledges more education on parking

KYLE YEHLER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Following student discussion regarding a parking ticket article published in the Feb. 23 issue of the Northwest Missourian, University Police Chief Clarence Green is in support of student education improvements.

Green said UPD wants to find alternative ways to instruct students about parking.

"Someone was tweeting about having more sessions or doing things different (after the article)," Green said. "Those are things we have to get on board with. We want to have open dialogues on better ways to deliver the parking information message."

Green said the department's outreach exists in several forms.

"We have information at every SOAR event, and print out a move-in day map," Green said. "We also advertise our website with its interactive parking map because most

folks don't want the paper."

Students also receive a parking map with every purchased parking permit.

Green said even with all of those options, his department needs better solutions to the issue.

"I think we have to try to find different modems to discuss it," Green said. "It's maybe going to be a series of short videos or something else that's catchy. In the written form, I don't think folks are viewing it."

Former student ticket writer senior Michael Hansen said he agrees with enhanced communication of parking rules to students.

"It could be better, especially with weekends and times," Hansen said. "Making rules concrete with certain times of availability with each spot would help a lot. There needs to be a clear black-and-white system for students to follow."

Green released numbers detailing specific characteristics of Northwest's

parking system.

Northwest contains 4,252 parking spots on its campus, with 1,478 open spots, 1,386 resident spots, 736 faculty spots and 277 commuter spots, among other miscellaneous types. Open spots indicate spaces for most types of permits sold.

For permits, Northwest sold 2,118 commuter passes, 1,684 resident passes and 736 faculty passes, among other types so far in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Green said he cannot calculate the average amount of vehicles parked on campus daily, but says there are about 250 spots open at any given time, even if they are in out-skirting lots.

"We look at it like a ratio," Green said. "For example, roughly we have about 1,300 commuter spots if commuters were all here at once. Typically they are not, so we try to do a ratio of 2.0 spots per permit. The National Parking Society says for every spot you have, you can sell 2.5 permits. Usually, we are

at 1.7 or lower."

Hansen said students often claim a lack of campus parking.

"If you look, where we'd want more parking is closer to the school," Hansen said. "There's no room. If we had more parking on the outside reaches of the school, that's not going to fix the problem because it's so far away."

Green said that building another parking lot would be a difficult venture.

"We can't afford an underground parking structure," Green said. "Could we afford an above-ground structure (like a garage)? Perhaps. It would be expensive. The best location is at the Union, where we have the most parking pressure. However, we haven't maximized our capacity yet."

Green said University Police is always open to discussion regarding parking addition solutions.

In permit revenue, the University brings in \$500,000-\$600,000 yearly, Green said. Tickets accrue

another \$120,000-\$140,000 in a separate account.

The permit revenue funds large projects and recently finished paying off \$15 million in bonds for the construction of Centennial Drive and College Park Drive behind the Garrett-Strong Science Building.

Ticket revenue goes toward ticket writer pay, signage and lot improvements.

Hansen said while it seems like signage is cheap, it is actually "outrageously expensive."

Green said, for instance, a new stop sign can cost around \$500.

Both confirmed there is no quota for parking tickets.

Hansen said if a ticket writer is doing his or her job well, they can usually ticket six vehicles per hour.

"If you go four days in a row and not ticket any cars, you're not really trying," Hansen said. "You easily get that in an hour because that many people park incorrectly."

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COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

Marijuana is better than pills



JACK YOUNG
Contributing Columnist
@TheMissourian

Medical marijuana is always up for discussion when it comes to rehabilitating your body in the professional field of sports. Many high-profile athletes and coaches feel like it is a necessity in the sports we play today.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis for medical purposes, and four states allow it for recreational use.

In the sports world, there are athletes

letes that do not believe in pain pills. Pain pills have opioids in them, making the pills addictive. The higher dose of opioids people take, the higher the risk of death is from an overdose.

Medical marijuana can be the alternative answer we have been looking for. It is a substitute for highly-addictive, commonly prescribed, opiate based medications such as Vicodin, OxyContin or Percocet. Two well-known NFL quarterbacks, Brett Favre and Ryan Leaf had addiction problems with the pain medications they were prescribed during their careers.

Muscle relaxation and anxiety reduction are benefits of medical

marijuana. These benefits lead to enhanced performance, as well as improving sleep time and recovery.

Head Coach of the Golden State Warriors Steve Kerr brought up the topic in December of 2016.

“You can see it with our country. Our country is starting to wisen up on the medicinal marijuana side. I hope we can wisen up on the prescription drug side. That’s scary stuff and it’s really not talked about often enough,” Kerr said during a Comcast SportsNet Bay Area’s Warriors Insider Podcast with Monte Poole.

The 51-year-old coach missed his team’s first 43 games of the 2015 season due to complications from

two back surgeries. Kerr tried using medical marijuana twice during the time for pain relief.

This is not the only coach supporting the movement. There is a major push from athletes and coaches for medical marijuana in sports to be a more relevant topic.

Any drug can be abused if handled in the wrong way. Medical marijuana can be a positive if used in the right way. There is a fine line in using marijuana medically or recreationally.

Allowing athletes to take pills that have opioids in them is putting the athletes at risk of getting addicted and hurt.

If athletes and coaches are jumping on board, this idea cannot be all bad,

can it? The pros and cons are all pointing towards trying medical marijuana.

Sports commissioners need to look at the research that is being done and understand that keeping their players and coaches safe should be top priority. Allowing athletes to be prescribed painkillers that can harm them instead of using a natural alternative is ridiculous.

Athletes who have decided to dedicate their lives to a sport deserve better options and treatments than addictive painkillers. Medical marijuana is an all-natural painkiller for athletes and something needs to change here soon.

Get your facts straight, America



SHAWNA KINGSTON
Photography Editor
@ShawnaKingston

Fake news. It’s a big issue. It is such a big issue even President Donald Trump addressed the fake news.

So let’s dive in. In February, Trump slammed Sweden on its “fake news.” Trump told people in his rally in Florida that something happened last night in Sweden.

People from all over Sweden were confused and wondered what

Trump was talking about.

Trump’s tweet stated “Give the public a break- the FAKE NEWS media is trying to say that large scale immigration in Sweden is working out just beautifully-NOT!”

Trump claimed he received his information via Fox News from a segment the night before.

In that segment was broadcaster Tucker Carlson, who interviewed film producer Ami Horowitz, who claimed he filmed refugees committing violence in Sweden.

Horowitz’s films made headline news late last year when he told other news outlets that in Europe there

were “no-go” areas for Muslims.

Sweden has taken in over 350,000 refugees in the last two years alone.

Horowitz claimed he traveled to Sweden to investigate the rape capital of Europe. He went on to say rape was not unknown but a minor issue in the country.

Swedish officials backfired at Horowitz through The New York Times, claiming his accusations did not justify the statistics they had on hand. Officials said they had a high number of sexual assaults because more victims came forward, not necessarily because of higher amounts

of violence.

Deputy Director of the Swedish Institute and political scientist Henrik Selin told The New York Times that Horowitz looked mostly at a study focusing on the negatives of refugees rather than the positives.

Horowitz also claimed that Sharia Law was prominent in parts of Europe.

Former Prime Minister Carl Bildt fired back at Trump’s accusations on Sweden and said “there have been 50 percent more murders in Orlando, Florida than all of Sweden. Bad.”

All of this firing back and forth between Sweden and Trump is pretty

childish. On one hand, Trump is saying what is happening in Sweden is terrible.

On the other hand, Sweden is saying that Trump needs to get his facts straight.

I agree with Trump. Fake news has taken over the public eye here in America. People are believing this news that is made up to get people fired up and go crazy. Trump was just doing the right thing by telling America to not listen to fake news and to learn to research your facts.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURIANS.COM

OUR VIEW:

Students, UPD work toward middle ground

The UPD and driving students need to find a spot in the middle.

After two articles published in the Missourian, communication seems to be in a good spot between the University Police Department (UPD) and students looking to find a parking spot on campus.

Many great things have come out of the communication taking place over the past couple of weeks, but we need to keep having these conversations instead of just assuming the problem is solved.

For a while, it seemed what did and did not warrant a parking ticket on campus was mostly ambiguous to students.

Is parking allowed after 5 p.m. ev-

erywhere? What lots can be accessed with a parking permit? These are two of many of the questions thousands of students found themselves asking.

Thanks to cooperation between University Police Chief Clarence Green, students and the Missourian communication, channels are more open than ever before.

Green stresses the importance of having workers patrol parking lots not only for issuing tickets, but to insure a safer campus as well. This is maybe the most overlooked factor when complaints arise from the ticket issue.

On the student side of things, it sounds like the UPD is certainly willing to explore the idea of provid-

ing further education in parking on campus. These are logical steps and this kind of discourse taking place in such a civil manner is needed in order to build a greater community, even if it already is pretty great.

Of course, as with any problem, there is more to the picture. Educating students in a topic many seem to be uneducated about is, again, a logical step, but not every single ticket given is given because of a misinformed student.

Anyone who drives and has classes in Wells Hall is aware of two things: very limited parking options and the very poorly kept gravel parking lot.

Walking through the parking lot

at any point in the day will show numerous tickets clipped tightly under windshield wipers.

The limited parking on its own is an issue. Thankfully, Green spoke of the complications with adding more lots to any part of the campus, especially when considering the notorious 2017 budget cuts.

We get it, extra parking on campus cannot and may not be possible in the near future. But when students are receiving tickets because lines have long faded away, there is an inherent problem to be discussed.

Northwest students, our staff included, have received tickets for not parking in the lines when the lines are more subjective than they ever should

be. This has been a problem in this gravel lot and lots like it for a while. After a couple days of rain, it might as well be fair game to park anywhere.

When it comes to reinforcing rules such as these, the guidelines for what can and cannot be appealed are borderline nonsensical.

As a whole, a lot of the issues can be fixed with a more personal appeal system. At the very least, a student should not be charged for something out of his or her control.

Not only should there be more education for places to park on campus, something could also be done to fix the system of appeals to be more understanding of situations like the ones in gravel parking lots.

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ANNASTASIA TUTTLE | NW MISSOURIAN

According to the Kansas City Star, the tornado damaged 483 houses and 12 people were injured, but none of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

STORM
CONTINUED FROM **A1**

Danielle O’Neill, a sophomore and member of Sigma Kappa, helped put together the fundraiser. “A few girls and I are from Oak Grove, and I think that my sorority sisters wanted to donate because we are all a family,” O’Neill said.

“When you see a family in need, you want to give a hand.” In total the groups donated six trash bags filled with clothing and other personal hygiene items, as well as eight cases of bottled water. O’Neill said the tornado was eye-opening for her because she and her family could have easily been one of the families who lost everything. “I think it is important to do-

nate to those in need because it is important to be grateful for all that you have,” O’Neill said. “In a split second, all of your belongings could be taken away from you. By donating, I think you have a sense of what things are important to you and what items are completely materialistic.” Heflin said the tornado was a real wake-up-call for her and

showed that you cannot take life for granted. “I would just say count your blessings and don’t take anything for granted,” Heflin said. “Things could have gone a lot differently that night, and I think that people should be thankful for how things went. Yeah the town is destroyed, but at least people could wake up the next day and say they lived through it.”

For O’Neill, the event-while tragic-brought everyone together and showed the strength of community. “Many of the homes in Oak Grove were completely destroyed,” O’Neill said. “All of my life Oak Grove has been a strong and supportive town. I wanted to see how my Northwest family could contribute to my hometown family.”

NEWS BRIEF

JCPenney to close stores, local store fate unknown

The JCPenney Corporation announced last month plans to close 130 to 140 U.S. stores. JCPenney stores all across the nation have been warned that they are at risk of being shut for one of two main reasons: the store does not make enough money for the size of the store or the investment in the store would be higher than

the income of sales. The official list of stores being shut down has not yet been released. However, Morningstar Credit Ratings released a list of 39 stores that are most likely to be closed. The Maryville JCPenney store was not included in Morningstar’s list.

Sodomy reported in campus housing

A student reported first degree sodomy took place in Tower Suites. The assault was reported March 10, but the student said the sodomy took place Sept. 1, 2016. University Police Chief Clarence Green said the survivor will not pursue criminal action and information regarding a suspect was not provided to University Police. Green was unsure whether or not

the student wished to pursue a Title-IX investigation. According to Missouri state law, a person commits the offense of sodomy in the first degree if he or she has deviate sexual intercourse with another person who is incapacitated, incapable of consent, or lacks the capacity to consent, or by the use of forcible compulsion.

Creative, craft store opens

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

A new space for creative thinkers and community members to explore their crafty side has opened on South Main Street. Ferluknat Farm opened its doors Feb. 8, housing Bliss salon alongside other home goods and art materials. They sell art supplies such as materials for scrapbooking, fabrics, and home decor. Store owner Holly Cronk said the store has been a lifetime dream of hers. Cronk has been creative for as long as she can remember. The name of the store possesses a special story involving a runt pig and insight from Cronk’s husband. “It all goes back to a small farm,” Cronk said. “We had a runt pig that I got through a friend of mine, and I promised my husband that when it

got bigger we’d have him snipped and eventually have him as bacon. As luck would have it, my daughter was active in raising him, so he spent most of his early life in a mud room. We stuck him in his pen and he learned to do tricks, so we gave him a name.” They choose the name ‘Arnie the Carnie’ initially, but during a night out next to a fire pit, Cronk’s husband had a revelation while staring at their beloved pig. “One night, my husband and I were out and we looked over at Arnie and he goes, ‘Yes sir-y, that pig isn’t for eating, it’s ferluknat,’” Cronk said. “At that time we knew that that’s what we were going to name our farm. That was back in the early 2000s.”

Cronk worked in education for 17 years before she opened up shop, with 12 of those years devoted to the position of registrar at Maryville High School. She felt it was time to give into her true passion: creating. The building used to house Classic Cuts before Cronk set up her business. The decision to include a salon in the store was part in fact that they had an area already set for the service. “My husband and I talked, and he thought it would be a good idea to keep the salon but move it to the back,” Cronk said. “Financially and business wise, it was a pretty sensible thing to do. We totally gutted the building and redid the salon in the back.”

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM

Blotters for the week of March 16

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department
March 7
A summons was issued to **Michael Johnson, 20**, for possession of drug paraphernalia at Sycamore Apartments.

Maryville Department of Public Safety
March 1
There is an ongoing investigation for leaving the scene of an accident at the 200 block of East First Street.
March 2
There is an ongoing investigation for identity theft at the 100

A summons was issued for stealing at the Student Union.
March 8
A summons was issued for stealing at the Foster Fitness Center.
March 10
A summons was issued for first degree sodomy at Tower Suites.
block of North Grand Avenue.
March 4
A summons was issued to **Krista A. Richardson, 25**, St. Joseph, for assault at the 200 block of South Main.
March 11
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny from a motor vehicle at the 700 block of North Fillmore Street.


March 11
A summons was issued for a liquor law violation at Lot 21.
Two summonses were issued for a liquor law violation at Franken Hall.
March 12
A summons was issued for a liquor law violation at Hudson Hall.
March 12
A summons was issued to **Kyle A. Raunig, 19**, for minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. at the 100 block of West Fourth Street.
A summons was issued to **Robert A. Bierschenk, 22**, St. Joseph, for driving while intoxicated at the 200 block of North Main.



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1 Villanova (31 - 3)								1 Kansas (28 - 4)
16 Mount St. Mary's								16 NC Central/UC Davis
8 Wisconsin (25 - 9)								8 Miami (Fla.) (21 - 11)
9 Virginia Tech (22- 10)								9 Michigan St. (19 - 14)
5 Virginia (22 - 10)								5 Iowa St. (23 - 10)
12 UNC Wilmington (29 - 5)								12 Nevada (28 - 6)
4 Florida (24 - 8)								4 Purdue (25 - 7)
13 East Tenn. St. (27 - 7)								13 Vermont (29 - 5)
6 SMU (30 - 4)								6 Creighton (25 - 9)
11 Providence/USC								11 Rhode Island (24 - 9)
3 Baylor (25 - 7)								3 Oregon (29 - 5)
14 New Mexico St. (28 - 5)								14 Iona (22 - 12)
7 South Carolina (22 - 10)								7 Michigan (21 - 11)
10 Marquette (19 - 12)								10 Oklahoma (20 - 12)
2 Duke (27 - 8)								2 Louisville (24 - 8)
15 Troy (22 - 14)								15 Jacksonville St. (20 - 14)
1 Gonzaga (32 - 1)								1 North Carolina (27 - 7)
16 S. Dakota St. (18 - 16)								16 Texas Southern (23 - 11)
8 Northwestern (23 - 11)								8 Arkansas (25 - 9)
9 Vanderbilt (19 - 15)								9 Seton Hall (21 - 11)
5 Notre Dame (25 - 9)								5 Minnesota (24 - 9)
12 Princeton (23 - 6)								12 Middle Tenn. (30 - 4)
4 West Virginia (26 - 8)								4 Butler (23 - 8)
13 Bucknell (26 - 8)								13 Winthrop (26 - 6)
6 Maryland (24 - 8)								6 Cincinnati (29 - 5)
11 Xavier (21 - 13)								11 Kansas St.
3 Florida St. (25 - 8)								3 UCLA (29 - 4)
14 Fla Gulf Coast (26 - 7)								14 Kent St. (22 - 13)
7 Saint Mary's (28 - 4)								7 Dayton (24 - 7)
10 VCU (26 - 8)								10 Wichita St. (30 - 4)
2 Arizona (30 - 4)								2 Kentucky (29 - 5)
15 North Dakota (22 - 9)								15 Northern Ky. (24 - 10)

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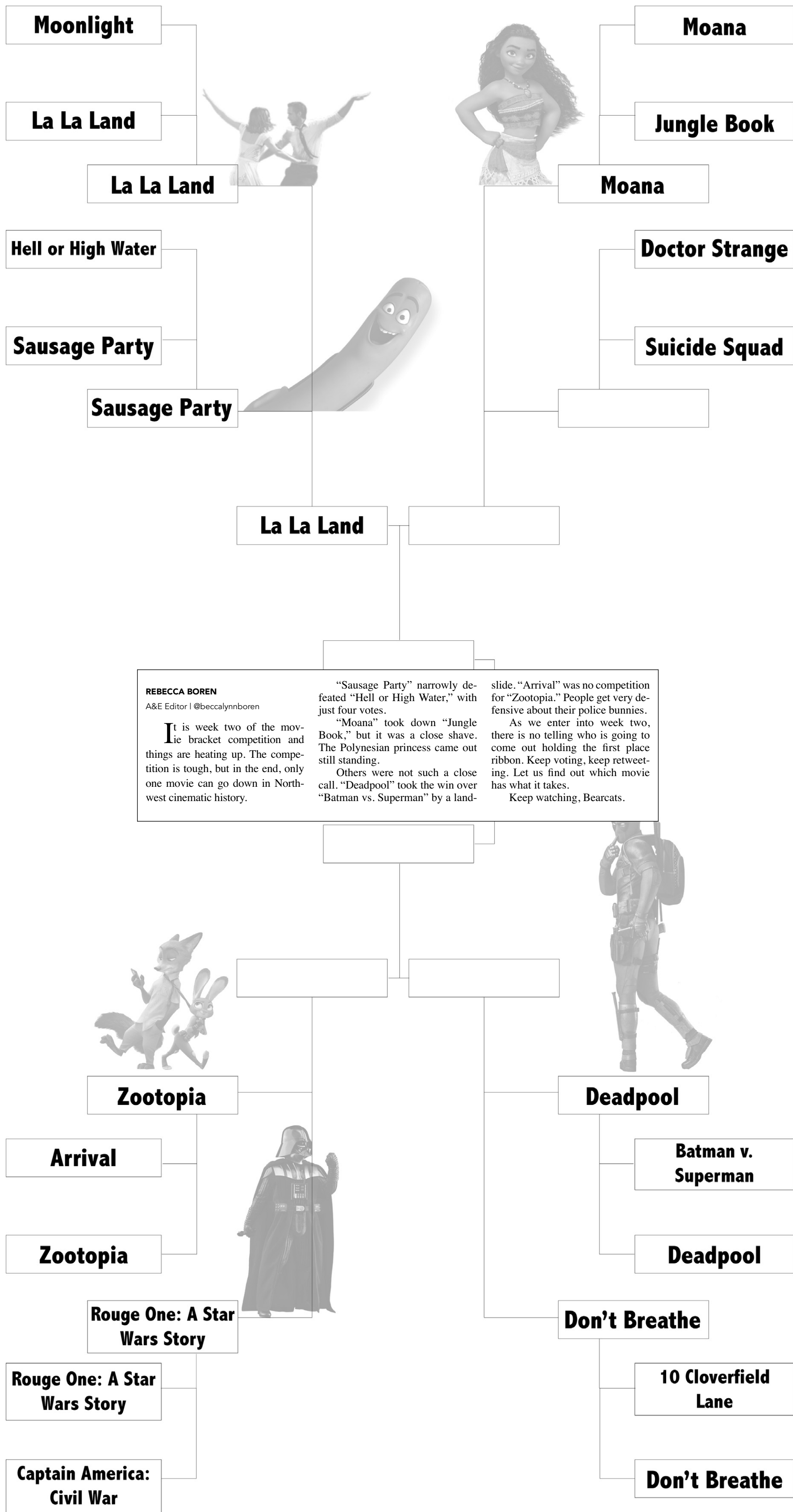
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Filharmonic is pitch perfect

MEKA WRIGHT
Missourian Reporter | @NWA&E

The Student Activities Council planned for a night of perfect pitches and soulful voices.

An a capella group called The Filharmonic performed March 11. The all-male group gets its unique name from the fact that each of its six members are Filipino. The group was featured on season 4 of NBC’s “The Sing-Off,” placing in the top four on the show.

Since their appearance on television show, the group has performed at many universities across the country, as well as landing a part in the major motion picture “Pitch Perfect 2.” Bearcats were sure to be in for a night of fun.

The audience in the Mary Linn Auditorium swarmed as students, faculty and community members, searched for the seats numbered on their tickets. The audience chattered with trilled emotion, waiting to hear what was in store for the night. The lighting changed, darkening and silencing the auditorium at once. Sophomore Emily Mikesch, the event organizer, introduced the group on stage.

“Let’s give it up for The Filharmonic,” Mikesch said.

The crowd applauded as an introduction video for the vocalists began. The auditorium was washed with deep purple as The Filharmonic emerged from behind the black curtain to the stage. The song began slowly, building the audience’s anticipation as the vocalist continued singing. Their voices created the backdrop for the song.

One by one, each singer began a precise vocalization, building on top of each other until finally the group’s beatboxer, Niko Del Rey, initiated the beat drop. Suddenly, the auditorium blazed with red light and The Filharmonic burst into action. The group members moved across the stage through choreographed movements.

Soon, the song was recognizable as the crowd began singing along to “Chains” by Nick Jonas. The song ended in a roar of applause from the audience and bows from the performers.

“Hello, Missouri,” The Filharmonic’s Musical Director VJ said. “We are The Filharmonic... are you guys ready to hang out with us tonight?”

The crowd erupted immediately. The performers took a short pause in songs for introductions.

Each member brings a special feature to the group. Jules Cruz is the bass singer and the team captain. Joe Caigoy is a former opera singer and total power house, blowing through songs with clear



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN

Members of the Filharmonics performed in the Performing Arts Center Friday March 10 as part of a SAC concert series.

and powerful vocals. Trace Gaynor began his musical career as an instrumentalist and plays the violin.

Del Rey, the group’s beatboxer, participated in show chorus in college, though his main focus was dancing. And finally, the fashionable music director VJ, who is from a Jazz background. As well as Barry Fortgang, the tenor of the group who unfortunately could was not in attendance to perform.

In an interview with The Filharmonic just hours before the show, the members expressed what their true aspirations for the group were.

“Growing up and doing music

no one thinks, ‘I’m going to do it for the fame’ or ‘I’m going to do it for the money’ or anything like that, so this... being on The Sing-Off, and having this group... it validates us,” Del Rey said. “We’ve all pursued music in different areas... we want to be a part of the industry because this is our passion. This is our opportunity to become musicians.”

The night continued with The Filharmonic performing a variety of pop and R&B songs from popular artists. They filled the night with an inviting clap-along to memorable songs from the movie “Pitch Perfect.” A beatbox completion be-

tween two members sent students and community members into a wave of laughter as Caigoy as mimicked Del Rey’s beatbox sequence.

The audience was even engulfed in a flash light wave through the crowd as they sung beautiful harmonies. Showcasing the true meaning of their name.

Junior Morgan Jones found that The Filharmonic had more to offer than she had imagined.

“They really surprised me. I had never heard of them and I almost didn’t come to the show,” Jones said. “I’m glad I came, I just wish more people would’ve come to the show.”

The night got interesting when the boys invited one lucky audience member to join them on stage for what The Filharmonic called “a little sexy time.” They took turns serenading the lucky lady, creating an endless circle of handsome men sliding to one knee in front of her.

The crowd was lively as the night came to an end, the performers thanking the audience for an amazing night for their first time in Missouri. They ended the show with Maroon 5 song, “One More Night.”

“Thank a lot guys, we had a great night... And once again... We are The Filharmonic,” they said in unison.

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants you to make smart decisions and have fun

It is that time of year again: spring break. It is a time of partying, vacationing and all-around fun, but you need to be smart about the decisions you make.

I know, you want to get as far away from here as possible and enjoy some time without the fear of forgetting to do a homework assignment or struggling to stay awake during lecture.

You need to play it safe. You

need to not do something you will regret. While this is a time for fun, your safety is still important and needs to be a focus in your travels and plans you made with friends.

When you travel, make sure you let people know you are traveling and when you arrive at your destination. When you do arrive, make sure you eat healthy food and get plenty of sleep.

At the same time, make sure

you have fun and enjoy your time off. I want you to come back rested and ready to hit the ground running and finish the semester strong. Take this time to destress and recharge your batteries in a setting that works for you.

If you are going to a party town and plan to consume alcohol, make sure you make smart decisions. Have a designated driver and make sure you drink responsibly. The

choices you make will stay with you for the rest of your life.

In an age of social media, people live their lives online and the evidence of your poor choices will stick around. A majority of employers check a prospective employee’s social media for questionable material on his or her respective forms of social media. Make sure to think before you post.

Spring break is a time to relax and to enjoy some much-needed time

off. Enjoy the break and take some time for you; you have deserved it. Just make sure the choices you make are ones you want to live with.

Have a great spring break, Bearcats.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

March on for women’s history month

CORIE HERTZOG
Missourian Reporter
@NWA&E



March is known for many things: spring, rain, tornados, but this month is also dedicated to women. This entire month is dedicated to women everywhere and the amazing women throughout history, and yet many people do not even know Women’s Month exists.

Why do people not know this?

Mostly because it is not broadcasted and taught in most public schools throughout the country. It is about as celebrated as National Pizza Day, though that does not stop

women from leaving their marks on the world.

There have been amazing women throughout history. From monarchs to scientists to teachers, women have fought long and hard to gain equality and respect. Still, many people do not feel like women have achieved their goals.

“Women have not achieved equality in the United States. Everyone is too stubborn to come to an agreement and equality in other countries is rough. I know in some countries, women have to be escorted to go outside,” Vartanian said.

However, some feel as if women are close to their goals.

“Women have come really close, but because it’s a social issue, it will take a couple more generations,”

freshman Mallory Krishna said. “I think more equality can be achieved just by listening to one another.”

This is not a female-only issue. Many men have taken on the title of a feminist.

“Equality is hard to properly achieve,” freshman Dante Morello said. “Perhaps people need to look at themselves and how they bring about inequality and move on from there.”

People tend to view feminism as a bad thing, which should change.

“It can be given a positive view by showing what exactly it’s about,” Morello said.

It is going to have to be a group effort to create the change people want to see.

“Truth brought to public light recruits the best of us to work for

change,” Christina Hoff Sommers wrote in her book, “Who Stole Feminism.”

However, there are things Northwest students can do to help further equality here on campus.

“Students should sit down and calmly discuss the topic of feminism,” Vartanian said.

Northwest students have female role models ranging from Queen Elizabeth I to Marie Curie, but many students do not have to look far for role models.

“My role model would have to be my mom,” Vartanian said. “She worked hard to get where she was at and she doesn’t quit.”

Others tend to look towards popular icons.

“I tend to look up to Beyonce,”

Morello said.

Women’s Month became official in 1987, and President Jimmy Carter designated March 2-8 as Women’s Week.

March 6 is internationally known as Women’s Day. Northwest has organized events throughout the month for students to attend in honor of this Women’s Month.

Though women now have the right to vote in the United States and many other first world countries, it is clear that there are still strides to be made. Each new generation brings a new idea to the table, whether it is for better or worse.

So ladies, put on your tiaras and march on in honor of those who broke boundaries and the glass ceiling.

CAMPUS TALK

Where is your spring break destination?



I will be going to Arizona and then Las Vegas. I'm going to fly to Arizona and I'm going to drive to Vegas to relax and take a couple days off from school and football.

Jamall Brazil



For spring break I will be in Estes Park, Colorado. We are driving there and we are going hiking with sorority friends. We are all just going to hang out and do whatever we want out there.

Abby Kloeppel



I'm still debating on whether to go to Kentucky or St. Louis. I thought about going to California, but I think I am going to push it back until May. I'll be driving and I will visit with friends who I haven't seen for the past three years because I go to Haiti so much.

Dr. Bayo Joachim



I will be going to Kansas City first for the weekend and then I will be going to Florida. I will just be driving to Kansas City, and then I will be taking a plane to Fort Lauderdale. I can't wait to get on a beach.

Angela Luna



I'll be traveling abroad under a different identity for the CIA. I could tell you, but then I would have to make you disappear.

Dr. Matt Walker



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Students may be excited to pack up and head out for spring break, but leaving behind any of these essentials could put a damper on the trip.

Do not forget spring break essentials

SYDNEY OETTER

Social Media Editor | @squidneyo

1. Money

Make sure if you are going to the beaches or hitting the slopes, you have about fifty dollars per day. Even better, stash some extra cash somewhere in your suitcase or makeup bag just in case. You never know when an emergency will arise, and it is better to be prepared.

2. Phone Charger

This is something everyone forgets, and although you can buy one almost anywhere, it is extra money to spend. I always make sure to pack my phone charger first just to make sure it is in my suitcase and I will not forget it last-minute. Maybe even pack more than one just to be safe.

3. Proper attire

Make sure you have the right clothes for the weather. Even if you are heading to the beach, make sure to pack jeans and a sweatshirt, because the sea breeze can get pretty chilly. If you are hitting the slopes, you still want to make sure to bring a swimsuit just in case you hit up the hot spring or a hotel pool.

4. Identification

This is another one that seems like a no-brainer, but really is a big deal. It is so easy to forget this small thing. It is better to throw this in with other really important things and also to triple check that you have it, then check again.

5. Sunscreen

You are lying to yourself when you say you do not burn. Everyone burns. Do not leave this essential at home.. Sunscreen is important wherever you go. Even if you are hitting up the slopes, making sure you have the SPF is very important, as the snow will reflect the sun onto your skin. If you decide to

ditch the sunscreen, we do not want to hear you complaining. You have been warned.

6. Snacks

Bringing your own snacks can save you huge amounts of money. It can also help with eating moderately healthy on spring break. It is easy to forget that calories still count on spring break, even if you do not want them to.

7. Have fun and relax

This is the most important one. Planning the trip should be the most stressful part. Once you are there, you should focus on having the most fun possible while also relaxing from all the stress of school. Remember, for a lot of us, this is the last big thing we will do before graduation come March. Enjoy the time you have with your friends while you still can.

Remember to be safe on spring break and have fun. Take the much-needed break from school, then come back and finish the school year strong.

Realizations

a short story by Brooke Beasley

The calming waves flowed gently in the wind, glittering in the sun. The same sun that caressed, and ever so gently, kissed my face.

The man-made waterfall rushed with an urgency that seemed out of place. Even the minnows flowed in a slow, lazy manner.

I stared lazily into the moss filled water, enjoying the peace. I leaned back and closed my eyes, enjoying the sounds around me.

The whistling of the songbird high in the oak trees. The barking of the dog straining on his chain, knowing his owner won't let him any further from the path, yet trying anyway.

The scuffling of a jogger's shoes on the rock as she tries to set her new record for the six mile track.

The water made a bubbling noise as a fish brushed the surface, catching my attention.

I opened my eyes and gazed down, still leaning back on my hands with my bare legs stretched out in

the sun.

I chuckled as a tiny minnow bumped into one friend, then another, thinking how clumsy he is.

"How clumsy he is? How clumsy I am," I thought.

So similar, yet so different. Two different worlds, merely existing inside one another.

Then, I noticed something strange. Not one minnow moved as it was bumped. They were in a group of at least 50, all floating under a pillow of moss. Nobody moved as others darted in and out of the group.

My heart started to hammer as I realized what was going on.

I suddenly understood the waterfall's urgency, desperate to push them away. I wished it would push them away faster.

The breeze suddenly seemed chilling, sending a shiver down my spine. Unlike moments ago, the sun was no longer warming.

Goosebumps rose on my bare skin as I stared, un-

able to look away. I felt sickened by mother nature's cruelty.

How could something so beautiful contain something so ugly and horrifying?

I couldn't stand the sight any longer. Sprinting away, I wondered. How could something so repulsive exist in a place so beautiful? How was something so ugly inside of something so beautiful?


I stopped to catch my breath, bending over to put my hands on my knees. The thought of something being dead inside made me wonder. Our worlds are so similar. Something being so beautiful on the outside containing such disasters in their world had to mean that it could happen in mine.

Another thought hit me like a ton of bricks, stealing the breath I'd just caught. Gasping, bent over in the shadows, I was consumed by one ugly thought.

Is that what I look like?


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Track speeds into outdoor play

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15

Bearcat track and field's transition into outdoor competition comes to a close as it prepares for the first checkpoint of the season. Northwest travels to Kansas for the Emporia State Pre-Spring Break Twilight meet March 17. The meet will include opponents from around the region, including some Division I competition.

Preparation for the outdoor meet stays the same for Northwest as the team practices outside regularly through the indoor season.

Despite the change, the team is eager to get into competition behind a meet which weather does not typically cooperate with.

"It is supposed to be good weather," freshman pole vaulter Payton Sheehan said. "For the first outdoor meet, that is pretty good. You just have to prepare yourself mentally for it."

The transition also marks the first chance for those competing in three events to get in full routine. Hammer throwers, javelin throwers and 400-meter hurdlers are not included in indoor competition.

Events included in the indoor season, such as pole vaulting, have no change in their routine, but Sheehan and freshman pole vaulter Zach Walkenhorse are ready to set their marks of the season.

"Right now we are doing shorter approach stuff, but I'm sure we are going to work back into the larger approach as we get closer to the meet," Walkenhorse said. "It's a great opportunity for us to get some personal records."

The pole vaulters are hoping to improve from the indoor season through their first meet. Alongside help from teammates, Sheehan and Walkenhorse feel their goal can be achieved.

"With pole vault, we only have

four true pole vaulters. All of us really support each other," Sheehan said. "The whole track team is building off each other and supporting each other in the other events."

Goals for the meet are the same across the board, but coach Scott Lorek said the first meet of the season is never anything to brag about.

"Your first meet is not going to be anything special," Lorek said. "We're treating it as one to get started. There is no special emphasis on it, other than we are going to have people compete in different events."

Lorek hopes some athletes step up to fill the roles of the 35 seniors who will graduate from the program at the end of this year.

The group showed steady progression in the indoor season, with seniors Joe Anger and Ryan Cox being part of the only Medley team which represented the Bearcats at the top following the indoor MIAA Championships.

"It's a real solid group," Lorek said. "We're looking for some other people to move into those spots that we need to develop."

At the same time, the meet will serve as a benchmark to work towards competition, which includes tough Division II and Division I opponents.

Northwest's schedule includes trips to Drake University and the University of Kansas, alongside two meets which will be held at the Herschel Neil Track in Bearcat Stadium.

"It is really getting us started, getting our feet wet, and getting ready for the bigger meets coming up later," Lorek said.



Senior middle distance Rayvonne Brown prepares for tracks first outdoor match of the season scheduled for March 17.



The women's track team warms up before practice ahead of the team's first meet March 17 at Emporia State.

SPORTS BRIEF

Spoofhound basketball programs

Six Maryville basketball athletes received post-season conference honors. Four members of boys basketball and two members of girls basketball were recognized by the Midland Empire Conference.

Seniors John Zimmerman and Jackson Golightly were named All-Conference athletes on the boys side. Senior Trey Oglesby and sophomore Eli Dowis were recognized as honorable mentions. Seniors Felicia Sheil and Abbie Greeley were named honorable mention athletes on the girls side.

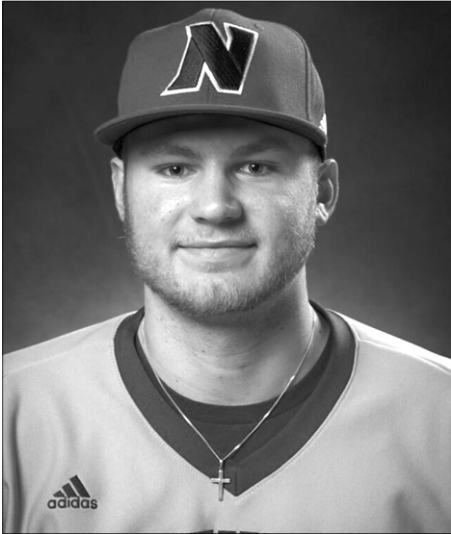
The boys ended their season 20-4, while the girls finished 7-17.

ATHLETES of the WEEK



BEARCATS

Joseph Hieptas



The junior pitcher threw a complete game, allowing just one run and two hits in a 5-1 victory over Washburn March 9. Hieptas struck out eight batters and walked one.

Karli Allen



The freshman infielder was four-for-four with two runs scored in a 11-2 victory over Lincoln March 9. Allen has compiled a .375 batting average through 9 games this season.

Jackson Golightly



The senior was named to the All-MEC team alongside senior John Zimmerman. Senior Trey Oglesby and sophomore Eli Dowis were honorable mentions.

Abbie Greeley



The senior was named as an honorable mention to the All-MEC Team. Senior Felicia Sheil was also recognized for the same honors

SPOOFHOUNDS



Tennis set for Spring Break tour



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN
Sophomore Sergi Fontcuberta returns a backhand shot in the Bearcats 7-2 victory over Washburn March 8. Fontcuberta earned victories in both singles and doubles.

ISIAH SWANN
Sports Editor | @iswanny3503

After a big regional victory, the Northwest tennis team heads south to compete in a total 14 matches over a slim seven-day span.

The No. 12 men (4-2, 1-0 MIAA) are winless in indoor play following a 7-2 loss to No. 35 Drury, while remaining undefeated on all outdoor surfaces.

The women (1-4, 0-1 MIAA) picked up their first win of the season over Arkansas Tech (7-3) in a tight-knit 6-3 final.

Senior Romain Boissinot, sophomore Sergi Fontcuberta and junior Josef Altmann have led the men's tennis team. The trio finished a combined 6-0 in the Bearcats' 7-2 victory over No. 37 Ouachita Baptist (3-6) March 11.

The regional victory propels the men to second place in the MIAA standings, behind Southwest Baptist (6-0, 1-0 MIAA).

"We knew the match was really important," Altmann said. "The energy was pretty good."

Altmann possessed the No. 6 spot on the Northwest men's team last season, competing in a total three singles matches.

This season, Altmann has been a



constant in the singles lineup at the No. 4 spot earning his way into five matches and 3-2 singles record.

"I'm pleased as punch with him," coach Mark Rosewell said. "He's come a long way and he's having a good year for us."

Altmann's three wins come against Division I opponent UMKC and two of the top-40 best teams in the country.

In Northwest's most recent win against Ouachita Baptist, Altmann picked up a 7-6, 6-2 singles win as well as an 8-2 doubles victory with the help of senior Aymeric Autones.

"It feels really good doing your best for the team," Altmann said. "When you get those two points for the team, you feel like you did your job."

The men begin a potential seven-game road trip with the possibility of playing an eighth versus Augustana at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The potential eight-game stretch would be completed over a seven-day stint.

The women will be on a similar trek, with two fewer matches on the schedule, as freshman Irene Nunez said the team will enter the road trip in different spirits.

"Honestly, I'm so excited to start the trip," Nunez said. "Now, I think the team has a different energy and attitude that we were looking for."

Though the freshman is excit-

ed to travel to Texas, Oklahoma and potentially South Dakota, the experience will be a new one.

"I'm also a little nervous because it is my first spring break as a Bearcat, and new things and new experiences are always exciting for me," Nunez said.

Nunez won her doubles matches with senior Lorena Rivas Jarolim and also provided the match-clinching point in a 6-4, 7-5 singles win.

"Her singles match was pivotal," Rosewell said. "It was huge and she played well."

The extended road trip is nothing out of the ordinary. Rosewell is no stranger to the adventure and said the risk of possible injury is always a threat.

"That's the way we've done it for 30 years," Rosewell said. "If you get somebody injured, it can really hurt your team. The weather is just consistently warm and we are going to be 'match tough' and ready for April."

NEXT GAMES
Northwest vs Harding March 17 @ 10 a.m.
Northwest at Southeastern Oklahoma St. March 19 @ 1 p.m.
March 17th @ Drury University

'Hounds set sights on season opener

TRENT SPINNER
Missourian Reporter | @nwmsports

As winter fades away, the Maryville boys head to the baseball diamond with maturity and senior leadership.

Spoofhound baseball seeks success from upperclassmen as it prepares for the upcoming season. The team's ultimate goal is to avenge a 1-0 loss to Benton in the district semi-finals last season.

This season marks coach Monica Woods' second year at helm. Woods is looking to build off of last season behind its decorated senior class.

"We are looking forward to the upcoming season and are excited to see what we can do," Woods said. "With the weather turning to spring, we can finally get our baseball season underway."

Maryville's season will hinge on the highly-awarded senior class, including All-Conference catcher Trey Hoover, All-Conference pitcher and All-District infielder Alex Bean and All-State outfielder Tomas Coalson highlighting the veteran leadership of the team.

"We are an experienced older team with six upperclassmen," Bean said. "But that just means we are going to have younger guys be able to step up when they are called upon."

These seniors know that with all the veterans on the team, one of the biggest challenges will be to push the young guys to follow their strides.

"This year will be a lot of developing new relationships with all the new guys," Hoover said. "Our goal is to get all the new varsity guys put them in the mix and get them comfortable for the season."

As all baseball teams know, the difference between a great baseball team and a good baseball team is defense. For the Spoofhounds, this core value is treated as a necessity for success in the upcoming season.



"I think defense will be our best attribute," Bean said. "Most of our returners are people that have played and have defensive experience."

One of the biggest factors that will affect this year's Missouri baseball season is the addition of the MSHSAA pitch count rule.

The rule was implemented in response to the National Federation of State High School Association issuing a regulation that required all high school athletic associations to have a pitch count issued by 2018.

The change was made in hope to reduce the amount of injuries across pitchers.

The rule states that there is a maximum amount of pitches that can be thrown based on the amount of days given for rest. The limit correlates with the pitcher's age. Seniors and juniors can throw 105 pitches daily, while sophomores and freshmen are limited to 95 pitches.

Each pitcher is allowed to throw two consecutive days with a maximum 30 pitches on the second day.

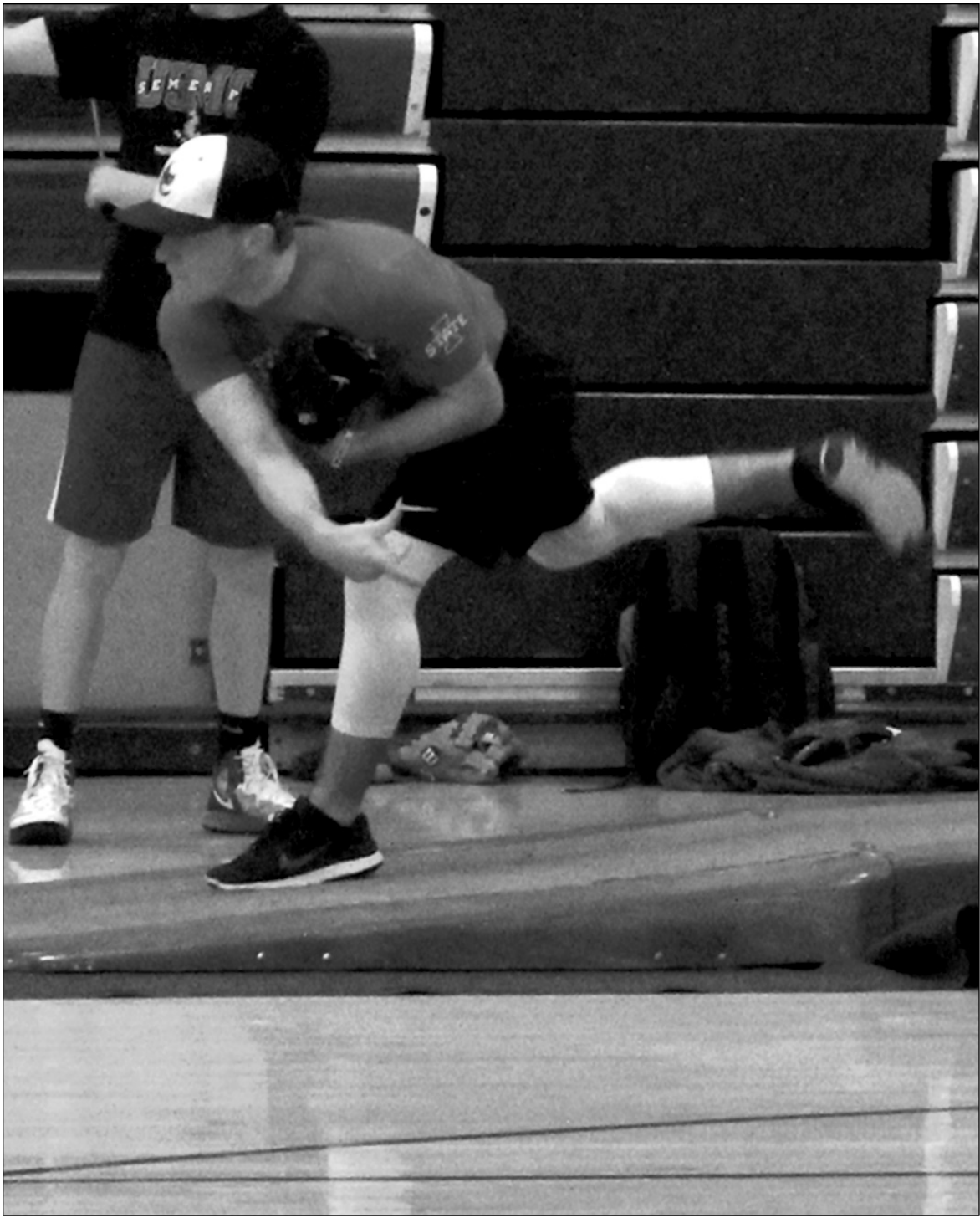
The rule means the Spoofhounds will have more depth in their bullpen in case pitch count becomes an issue.

"With the new regulation of pitching, we are going to have to try and add more pitchers to our bullpen," Coalson said. "So, that means a lot more people that don't have that pitching experience will have to step up in our lineup."

Even this new rule will not stop the Spoofhounds from working towards their ultimate goal.

"We want to just get our feet wet and win some ball games in the regular season," Bean said. "And hopefully we can go back and win the district tournament."

NEXT GAME
Savannah @ Maryville March 21 @ 4:30 p.m.



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior pitcher Alex Bean works on his technique during practice March 10.

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NW BASEBALL

MIAA Standings

	Overall	MIAA
Missouri Western.....	11-8	8-1
Emporia St.....	15-4	5-1
Central Missouri.....	15-4	7-2
Lindenwood.....	13-7	6-3
Central Oklahoma.....	14-5	15-4
Washburn.....	13-7	5-4
Missouri Southern.....	13-10	5-4
Northeastern St.....	9-8	3-3
Southwest Baptist.....	13-6	4-5
NORTHWEST.....	11-8	3-6
Pittsburg St.....	8-13	2-7
Fort Hays St.....	7-14	1-8
Nebraska Kearney.....	7-12	0-6

March 16

William Jewell at Northwest

March 18

Northwest at Rockhurst

March 19

Rockhurst at Northwest

NW SOFTBALL

MIAA Standings

	Overall	MIAA
Missouri Western.....	18-4	2-0
Central Oklahoma.....	11-3	2-0
NORTHWEST.....	10-6	2-0
Fort Hays St.....	8-12	2-0
Pittsburg St.....	17-7	3-1
Emporia St.....	16-12	3-1
Northeastern St.....	11-12	4-2
Southwest Baptist.....	14-6	1-1
Central Missouri.....	7-14	1-1
Missouri Southern.....	10-15	1-3
Washburn.....	11-18	1-7
Lindenwood.....	6-8	0-2
Lincoln.....	2-16	0-2
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-18	0-2

March 17

Northwest vs Minnesota Duluth

Northwest vs Wayne St.

Northwest vs Northern St.

Northwest vs Minnesota St.

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Division II Tournament Elite Eight

1 Fairmont St.

March 22 1 p.m.

8 Rollins

4 Bellarmine

March 22 3:30 p.m.

#5 Colorado Mines

#2 Northwest Missouri

March 22 7 p.m.

#7 St. Thomas Aquinas

#3 Lincoln Memorial

March 22 @ 9:30 p.m.

#6 Chico State

March 23

March 23

March 23

March 25 3 p.m.

*All games held at Sandford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Success reliant on late game rallies

AMBER GIERSTORF
Sports Reporter | @ambermae30

Bearcat softball is on a hot streak heading into spring break action. Northwest (10-6, 2-0 MIAA) has won its last seven games. The Bearcats most recently swept Lincoln (2-16) in a double-header opening MIAA play March 9.



The Bearcats used a combination of strategic pitching and late game rallies to defeat the Blue Tigers 11-2 and 11-3.

Coach Ryan Anderson said his team has been relying on one or two good innings to win games, instead of remaining constant throughout.

“Something we talked about after that game, and even heading into this week, was that we have to have consistent at-bats, no matter who’s pitching and no matter what the score is,” Anderson said.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bearcats have continually improved throughout the season. Anderson said he believes the stronger their defense is, the more their offense will improve along with it.

“With defense, mistakes are going to happen but we have to play through them,” Anderson said. “That’s what we’ve talked about the whole year, just keep playing defense and the offense is going to come around.”

The major downfall for the Bearcats lately has been the weather. They have been plagued with low temperatures as well as snow and rain.

This has caused the team to move many practices inside, meaning the players do not get to practice on dirt or simulate game situations like they normally would.

This has also forced Anderson to



Freshman Kaitlyn Weis uses all of her wingspan to catch a fly ball in practice March 6. The Bearcats have won their last seven games.

DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

postpone several important matchups over the past few weeks. The Bearcats were originally set to face off against William Jewell March 8, but cold temperatures meant postponing the games to a later date.

A few days later, the weather forced another schedule change, this time moving the Lindenwood double-header to later this season. The new dates for those games have not been announced.

Northwest was also set to head to St. Joseph March 14 for a rivalry matchup against Missouri Western, but once again, weather con-

cerns meant the two schools had to move the game back.

The Griffons and Bearcats will go head-to-head at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. March 4 in St. Joseph.

Senior infielder Chantel Adams said constant schedule changes can throw them off. It gives them an opportunity to work on their game, but they would rather be out on the dirt going up against opponents.

“We do get a lot more swings in when we’re not playing as much, or we’ll have time off to get people healed up when we have injuries,” Adams said. “It’s good time off but

we need to be playing, and that’s what we want to do.”

With spring break starting March 17, most students will be leaving town, but the softball team has other plans. It will head to St. Joseph to play in a tournament against some tough competition. The Bearcats start off the tournament at noon March 17 against Minnesota Duluth (11-7). Later that day, they take on Wayne State (4-14).

The morning of March 18, they take on the Wolves from Northern State (13-5) and the Mavericks from Minnesota State-Mankato (17-

3). They finish the tournament with games against Sioux Falls (12-7) and St. Cloud State (16-4) March 19.

Anderson said this is an important weekend for his team, and how well the players perform will affect their postseason prospects. They are looking ahead to the future, but they are also focused on each individual game.

“This weekend is a huge regional tournament, so if we want to make it there, these are the tournaments we need to show up at,” Anderson said. “It might be cliché, but we are just going to play them one game at a time, because that’s what we have to do.”

Softball finds perfect fit in junior college transfer

TUCKER FRANKLIN
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

While Northwest softball is on fire, a new ace has emerged to kindle the flame.



Transferring in from Barton Community College, junior pitcher Holly Posegate is off to a great start to the season.

Posegate has compiled six wins and one save through nine appearances. She has also recorded 16 strikeouts and a 2.60 ERA.

Posegate said the higher skill level and power in Division II has forced her to step up her game.

“The competition is a lot better,” Posegate said. “I have to compete a lot harder and it has made me a better pitcher, I think.”

Even though Posegate’s intention is not to sit batters down, she leads the team in strikeouts. She has recorded the most wins and the second best ERA on the team.

“My main goal is to pitch for outs,” Posegate said. “I don’t necessarily try and strike people out. I like to let my defense help me out. They always do, and that’s a good feeling to have.”

Posegate has recorded four wins in her last five appearances. She also has the most innings and most appearances out of any pitchers this spring. In 45 innings pitched, she has only allowed one home run, which came in Northwest’s 7-5 loss



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior pitcher Holly Posegate winds up her pitch during practice March 6 at Bearcat softball field.

to Springfield, Illinois Feb. 17.

Coach Ryan Anderson said they are still trying to figure out what role fits her pitching style best. He is just glad that when they do pitch her, she comes through just about every time.

“It took us a little while this fall to figure her out and figure out how to pitch her,” Anderson said. “I don’t think we’ve figured it out completely but she’s throwing well right now.”

With such a solid start to the sea-

son, Anderson wants to find more opportunities for Posegate to show her abilities and improve her skill.

“She’s still going to get a good bunch of starts. Hopefully she can

get us deep into the game and keep getting the outs she needs to,” Anderson said.

Spotting junior college talent can be difficult, but coach Anderson liked what he saw of Posegate in a video. From the tape one thing impressed him the most.

“Her spin,” Anderson said. “I saw a video and being a junior college kid, you can’t see them because they play in the same season you’re in right now, but just from the video the ball spun well.”

Since playing her first games here in Maryville, Posegate is happy with her decision to become a Bearcat.

“I really like the atmosphere that Northwest has,” Posegate said. “Being a Bearcat is really awesome. There is a lot of community support, which I really like.”

Not only did the athletics program and the atmosphere draw Posegate to Northwest, but the education department did as well.

“I am an elementary education major and they have a really good program here, so I really liked that,” Posegate said. “I like the location. It’s close to Kansas City so I can fly home and it’s pretty easy to do that.”

With plenty more games to come, Posegate hopes she can keep the hot hand and help her team go deep into the postseason.

“I would like to finish in the top of the MIAA,” Posegate said. “I want lower than a 2.00 ERA, and I want to make it far into the postseason.”

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Saddle Up

Equestrian club rides the barrels to success

JUSTIN QUICK
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest Equestrian has provided students an off-campus opportunity to grow a unique passion.



The Equestrian Club is a group of students with a love for horses. The president of the club is Miranda vest. The club allows members to improve their knowledge of how to care and ride horses. It is open to any Northwest student, no matter the experience.

Members of the club are able to learn how to ride a horse through riding experiences at the stables just off campus.

For those members who do not own a horse, the club goes out to different barns and provides the opportunity to ride one.

The club puts on different shows throughout the year and helps riders have a taste of competition both on and off campus.

These shows are not only for club members. Senior Morgan Schaeperkoetter is a former club member who still participates in these events.

“They’ll hold a couple of fun shows out at the stables, and they’ll do a couple of shows over at Horace Mann to teach them a little bit about horses,” Schaeperkoetter said.

These fun shows are events that include pole bending, barrel racing, down and backs and more.

The club hosts the shows and opens the competitions to anyone who wants to enter.

“We have no requirements and there are multiple age groups for equal competition. We have family games set up as well,” Vest said.

The club events are normally held at the stables. The stables are open to any Northwest student and include an arena to hold competi-



Senior Morgan Schaeperkoetter prepares her horse, Canon. Schaeperkoetter is a barrel racer and has won many prizes for her winnings. SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

tions and shows. The cost to keep a horse at the stables is \$100 per month, plus the feeding and maintenance cost of the horses.

While most students use the stables for leisure, the fun shows are what draws people to the arena. The shows provide those riders with little or no experience an opportunity to ease into competition.

In the event of barrel racing,

the learning process is slow and requires dedication to yourself and your horse.

“It takes years of experience to learn. I’m learning new stuff every single day,” Schaeperkoetter said. “You have to keep your horse in shape and make sure they’re nice and flexed all the time.”

Caring for a horse is a major part of preparing for competitions and a

main focus of the club.

The club educates inexperienced members on many factors about horses. These lessons apply to everyday care and to the competition side of raising a horse.

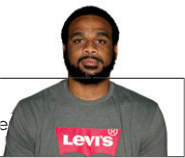
“You want to make sure horse is settled in and comfortable in their surroundings. Even the most finished horses can get spooked in a new place,” Schaeperkoetter said.

All of these lessons will be on display at the club’s next Fun Show. The show will be held April 8 and will start at 9 a.m. The show is being held to help support Changing Leads Equine Rescue.

“A portion of the proceeds for this show is going to Changing Leads Equine Rescue, which is a huge reason why we are putting this on,” Vest said.

Wright culture adjustments made

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter
@treyrock36



If by chance you find yourself on the Northwest campus this spring, you will probably hear coach Rich Wright’s voice.



Loud, intense and filled with passion, Wright has already made a name for himself thanks to his success as Northwest’s defensive coordinator. But after former head coach Adam Dorrell left for Abilene Christian, Wright was promoted.

Intensity is not the only style coach Wright brings to the table. In contrast to Dorrell’s more formal approach, Wright prefers to build more personal relationships with his players. His constant em-

phasizing of what it means to carry on the tradition laid out by former coach Scott Bostwick shows he understands what it means to be a part of Northwest football.

Although Dorrell won championships, the close relationships with players was something he never could accomplish. Players stayed at a distance while doing their job, never developing a family-like relationship.

Throughout the season, Wright opened his home for defensive linemen to watch film and he hosted an annual dinner. If that is not enough, walk-on junior Matt Connelly received a scholarship that Wright made public, emphasizing Connelly’s hard work.

“You see, the Division I guys do it all the time,” Wright said. “We brainstormed and wanted to figure out a way to bring excitement into the program.”

But, it was more than just a marketing piece. It symbolized Wright’s dedication to creating a family-like atmosphere. In

return for players investing in him, Wright allowed players to see deeper into his life.

In the past, Wright’s father flew in from New York to stay with his son for one week. During that time, he attended meetings and a game. In addition, Wright’s wife and kids spend a significant amount of time around players.

Some coaches may talk about how their team strives to create a family atmosphere by building relationships with players while winning games. If his time at Northwest has been any indication, Wright is more than willing to put in the work.

As for how his first spring is going, there are a lot of holes to fill before Northwest takes the field in the fall.

“We’ve made a lot of mistakes, but we are young,” Wright said. “We have replaced a lot of guys, but around here, you better reload instead of rebuilding.”

The sometimes intense style of coach-

ing exhibited by Wright symbolizes his passion for the sport. That same passion enables him to pay close attention to the small details other coaches commonly overlook.

Because of this, rarely does an opposing team get the best of whatever unit Wright has control over. From the defensive line to the defense as a whole, Wright-led units tend to consistently perform at an elite level

A lot of time remains between now and the beginning of fall camp, but the benefit of promoting from within means players will not have to develop new relationships with new coaches.

Behind all of the fire and passion that fuels Wright lies a sense of family that has allowed him to thrive at a high level for over a decade. He has yet to coach his first game as head coach, but Wright already seems like the right fit.

Baseball encounters mixed results against Washburn



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior infielder Ozzie Adams sprints for first base in the Bearcats 5-1 win March 9.

JAMES HOWEY
Chief Sports Reporter | @how_eyseesit

Northwest baseball saw mixed results in its turbulent series with Washburn.



A schedule change forced what was supposed to be a routine home series into an unexpected challenge for the Bearcats (11-8, MIAA 3-6). Northwest started the series with a 5-1 home victory led by a masterful performance from junior pitcher Joseph Hietpas March 9.

The series continued at the home of the Ichabods (13-7, MIAA 5-4) for a double-header March 10. The Bearcats dropped both those games 2-6 and 2-8.

Coach Darin Loe has noticed his team just has not been successful when traveling to Topeka, Kansas.

“For whatever reason, we don’t play well at Washburn,” Loe said. “It was a little bit of whirlwind day for us just because we had to jump on a bus in the early morning when we were originally supposed to play at home.”

The Northwest offense struggled against two of the best pitchers in the MIAA. Senior Lance Barkley (2.10 ERA) and sophomore Ja-

cob Head (2.18 ERA) sport the second and third best ERAs in the conference, and it showed when they played against the Bearcats.

Coach Darin Loe said Northwest needs to do a better job of making pitchers work for outs.

“The bottom line is we need to do a better job of battling those pitchers and get them out of the game if we can’t hit them,” Loe said. “We need to get away from the 0-4 days and get back to the 1-4 games where we are making productive outs.”

The Bearcats have played better in the few home games they have had this season, but have not looked as sharp on the road. Senior first baseman James Hollar insisted his team should have handled the abrupt schedule change better.

“It’s tough to lose two home games, especially against a quality opponent,” Hollar said. “We’ve dealt with changing schedules and locations a lot before, so we can’t use that as an excuse for what happened Friday.”

Senior Anthony Caenepeel and junior Brad Roberts did not have their usual stuff and accumulated high pitch counts early in both their games. Despite the two pitchers not delivering their best effort, Loe said

the Northwest offense needs to pick up some slack.

“It just happened that both of them got themselves in the middle of a ball game where we felt like we needed a fresh arm,” Loe said. “We just weren’t pressuring a lot offensively, and once we start doing that I think everything will be all right.”

The Bearcats will have three non-conference games this week, starting with a home game against William Jewell College March 16. They play at Rockhurst March 18 and at home versus Rockhurst March 19. Loe said the team will employ the same strategy for these games that they would for any conference contest.

“We’re not treating those games different from a normal MIAA opponent,” Loe said. “We’ll have to pitch well, play good defense and get timelier hitting in order to be successful.”

NEXT GAMES
William Jewell at Northwest March 16 @ 2 p.m.
Northwest at Rockhurst March 18 @ 3 p.m.
Rockhurst at Northwest March 19 @ 1 p.m.